* Exemption from Royalty on Sand during construction of the refinery.
* Exemption from payment of electricity duty in respect of power to be generated in the captive power plant for a period of 5 years.

Supply of gas to RGTP

61. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gas presently available at Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Project (RGTP);

(b) how much additional quantity of gas would still be required to run the plant at full capacity;

(c) the agency to supply additional gas for this project; and

(d) by when gas will be made available to run both gas turbines at full load?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The average gas drawal by Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Station (RGTPS) in 2007-08 (upto December 2008) was around 0.69 Million Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD).

(b) Additional gas requirement for operation of Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Project at 95% Plant Load Factor (PLF) and taking Gross Calorific Value (GVC) of gas as 4150 Kilo calories (Kcal)/Standard Cubic Metre (SCM) and station heat rate 2000 Kcal/Kilo Watt Hours (KWH), will be around 0.50 MMSCMD.

(c) and (d) Oil India Limited (OIL) is expecting an additional gas availability of 0.2 MMSCMD from its Dandewala gas field by 2007-08. Additional facility needs to be created for this additional quantity. Negotiations for commercial arrangements for the additional gas are underway between Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL), OIL and GAIL (India) Limited.

Supply of cooking gas in the capital

62. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that supplies of LPG cooking gas refills in the capital has not improved,

(b) whether it is also a fact that LPG supply takes atleast 3-4 week in the capital causing lot of hardship to consumers; and

(c) if so, what action Government proposes to take to improve the LPG refills in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including the Capital and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered

with the LPG distributors, OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 481.65 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonnes) of domestic LPG in the State of Delhi during the period April, 2007-January, 2008 as against 463.49 TMT during the corresponding period of last year.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country, including the State of Delhi due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour etc.

Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holiday and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

Oil marketing companies *vis-a-vis* LPG supply

63. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States in Southern, Northern and Eastern India are facing shortage of LPG;

(b) if so, the main reasons for reduction of supply of LPG to the said States;

(c) whether the oil marketing companies have been directed to initiate steps that would liquidate the black marketing in LPG supplies;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the scarcity levels would be reduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in some States of the country due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January, 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour etc. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holiday and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

(c) to (e) The possibility of black marketing of subsidized domestic LPG cylinders by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to the wide gap between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and the market price for commercial LPG.

In order to stop black marketing of LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated